

Message Text

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45

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 MC-02 RSR-01

L-03 /071 W

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R 121116Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

SECSTATE WASHDC 2074

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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FOR STATE/AID EA AND COMMERCE EXPORT CONTROL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC

SUBJECT: GOA DEFERRAL OF EXPORT LICENSE FOR CARGO AIRCRAFT TO
CAMBODIA

REFS: (A) CANBERRA 3757 (B) CANBERRA 3802

1. AUSTRALIAN COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY KINGSMILL, CALLED ON THE
DEPUTY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ON JULY 10 TO DISCUSS THE SAAT AFFAIR.
KINGSMILL HOPED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SAAT, CECIL WROTEN, FERGUSON,
ET AL.

2. AS WE HAD INDICATED EARLIER TO ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
OFFICER, WE KNOW VERY LITTLE OF SAAT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE
COMPANY WAS RECENTLY FORMED AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE
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FINANCIAL BACKGROUND OF THE COMPANY. BOTH WROTEN AND FERGUSON

WERE PREVIOUSLY ASSOCIATED AS PILOTS WITH TRI-9, COMPANY LEASING AND OPERATING AIRCRAFT AND CONTRACTING FOR SUCH MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES AS AIR CONDITIONER MAINTENANCE. THE COMPANY HAS A SPOTTY REPUTATION HERE IN PHNOM PENH.

3. KINGSMILL POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT THE AIRCRAFT PURCHASED IN AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE PUT TO MILITARY USE IN CAMBODIA. IT SEEMS THAT A SALE OF VISCOUNTS TO ISRAEL SEVERAL YEARS AGO WAS ALSO TURNED DOWN BY THE GOA FOR THE SAME REASONS. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS INFORMED CANBERRA THAT IT APPEARED THE AIRCRAFT DESTINED FOR CAMBODIA WOULD BE USED FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES BUT THAT THERE COULD BE NO GUARANTEE OF THAT. KINGSMILL ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO CANBERRA THAT WROTEN'S FINANCIAL BACKGROUND BE CHECKED IN THE U.S.

4. WE ADVISED KINGSMILL THAT IN VIEW OF THE INCREASINGLY HEAVY DEMANDS BEING PLACED ON CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FLEETS FOR RICE AIRLIFTS, ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE NEEDED AND COULD CERTAINLY BE USED.

5. WE NOW HAVE A COPY OF THE CONTRACT WITH WROTEN SIGNED WITH AIR CAMBODGE ON MAY 28, 1973. THE CONTRACT PROVIDES FOR THE LEASE OF THREE CARVAIR-TYPE AIRCRAFT. SAAT IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE CONTRACT. THE FIRST AIRCRAFT WAS TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AT PHNOM PENH WITHIN 30 DAYS OF CONTRACT SIGNING AND THE REMAINING TWO WITHIN 60 DAYS. THE CONTRACT IS FOR SIX MONTHS INTERVALS, RENEWABLE FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS. ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT EXPLICITLY SAY SO, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE INTENTION WAS THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED FOR CIVILIAN RATHER THAN MILITARY PURPOSES. THE CONTRACT PROVIDES THAT WROTEN CAN ALSO MAKE THE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO AGENCIES OF THE USG. HOWEVER THIS PROVISION IS NOT ONE THAT WAS SUBJECT TO ANY DISCUSSION WITH USG OFFICIALS.

DECONTROL 7/15/74.

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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